

The Labor Advocate

A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL

Official Organ of
The Building Trades Council
of Cincinnati and Vicinity

ISSUED WEEKLY

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Communications should be on hand not later
than Wednesday to insure publication.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Entered at the postoffice at Cincinnati, O., as
second-class mail matter.



Cincinnati, O., October 2, 1915.

TOO HOT.

The Stability Amendment seems to be a hot proposition to handle. The Republican conference in Columbus a few days ago refused to touch it, leaving the matter to each individual, which demonstrates that the party leaders desire to side-step the question.

Now comes the Central Labor Council, and for the first time in its existence it declares itself "neutral" on the subject, which means that the brewery interests were not strong enough to put it over, all of which shows that we displayed good sense in jumping away from it last week.

BUY IN CINCINNATI.

The Labor Advocate would like to ask the Chamber of Commerce a few questions:

If they want to get interurban trade, every Wednesday, why don't they go up to the City Council and help pass the ordinance to allow the Lawrenceburg and Aurora traction line to come into the heart of the city, and if successful they will get the trade from that section, not only on Wednesday, but every day in the week?

Again, why don't the Chamber of Commerce advocate the bringing of all the other interurbans into the heart of the city?

Why do they not advocate lower fares so that people will be induced to visit our city?

There is too much bunk about the Chamber of Commerce, it is made of specialized secretaries whose main specialty is to get all the press notices it can for the gentlemen on their various committees, and these well-fed individuals feel their importance when they read about themselves in the papers, and speak highly of the secretary's ability.

But when you talk about lower fares, better accommodations, or more street cars, you are at once out of line with the powers that be, in the Chamber of Commerce.

MULE SPINNERS' OFFICERS.

Boston, Mass.—The annual convention of the Mule Spinners' Association, which adjourned last Saturday, elected the following officers: George Thornton, Pawtucket, president; Samuel Ross, New Bedford, vice-president; Thomas D. O'Connell, Fall River, treasurer, and Urban Fleming, secretary and delegate to the A. F. of L. convention.

LEARN BIGELOWISM

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST
GIVES FREE INSTRUCTIONS.

Easy Way to Make Money After You
Study This.

The Saturday Evening Post, under the head, "The Complete Demagogue," gives full instructions of how to be successful in the agitating business, which seems to be quite profitable right now. The Post says:

"Probably the easiest of all trades for a man with a dependable set of vocal organs is that of demagogue. The guiding principles of the trade may be set down in few words, as follows:

"1. Nearly everybody in the United States wants more money. Some may complain of this thing or some of that; but on careful analysis it will appear that most of the complaints could be satisfied by more money.

"2. There are various large accumulations of money in the United States.

"3. Therefore, preach that these accumulations constitute the only national trouble worth mentioning. It is perfectly simple. There are the wants on one side and the money to satisfy on the other. It is just as though there were a thousand hungry men on one side of the street and a vast delicatessen store on the other. Happiness is to be achieved by simply walking across the street.

"4. Never be misled into any trumpery and complicated side issues. For example, New York City banks have over three billion dollars of deposits. Do not bother about who owns that accumulation or how it functions. Just call it a Money Trust and pitch into it with all the adjectives at your command. If anybody mentions railroads, simply point out that they are capitalized for twenty billion dollars. Pronounce it as though you were dragging a dog out of a gopher hole by the tail—this way: 'Twenty-see-bil-y-on dollars!' That is enough to say about railroads.

"5. Above everything else, always personify the accumulation you are talking about. At first, while you are green at the trade, you may hesitate to say outright that Morgan and Rockefeller own or control it. You may then credit it to a 'small group of men in Wall Street'; but by a little practice Morgan and Rockefeller will come easy. This is so important that you can well afford to practice in the wilderness until you acquire the necessary facility."

The above only refers to big national agitators. But you can start right at home by transcribing the fourth rule to meet local conditions.

Rule 6. Pick out some public utility, or all of them, and advocate cutting their revenue in half. You need not give any reason. Only say they are making too much money. Abuse Kesley Schoepf, denounce Chas. P. Taft, vilify Mr. Freeman, roast Mr. Bayard Killeour. You are perfectly safe. They will not even answer you. The last name, Mr. Killeour is still open. All the rest have been grabbed off by Bigelow, and it would be hard for you to break in on his game. Start a paper; send to business men for money. Take that money and credit it to subscribers who do not subscribe, and thereby you can duck the postal laws. Print lies about anybody, but when you are called, lay down like a dog.

TYPHOID WILL CLAIM 200,000.

Washington.—The typhoid fever season is again at hand, according to an announcement by the United States Public Health Service, and during the coming year probably no less than 200,000 people will contract this disease. About 18,000 of these will die, in the opinion of officials, who have made public a statement designed to draw attention to the fact that the fever is a disease of filth and can be avoided by proper precautions, as scientific knowledge of the disease is most complete. The report says the death rate since 1900 has been reduced by half, but it still remains much higher than that of countries "which we are apt to consider less civilized than our own."

In deferring to the 18,000 who will possibly succumb, it is stated that 50 per cent of these will be between the ages of 15 and 35 years, and that no sooner is the computation of the 18,000 completed than another series is begun and so on interminably. The report says the fever can only be contracted by taking into the system the waste products of one previously ill of the disease. These waste products are conveyed from one individual to another usually by means of a third object, such as water, flies or milk.

WILL ASSIST TEACHERS.

Chicago.—At an immense mass meeting in this city last week a nation-wide campaign against the board of education and in favor of the Chicago teachers' federation was started. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local federation of labor, and was addressed by President Gompers, President Walker, of the State Federation of Labor; President Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago federation of labor and Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of the federal department of labor.

CINCINNATI

CAN BE DEPENDED ON TO DO
HER SHARE.

Great Rejoicing When Willis An-
nounced His Candidacy For
President.

When the following telegram reached Cincinnati Tuesday, there was great rejoicing among the local Republicans and the members of trade unions. Peter W. Durr was appointed chairman of a committee of citizens to welcome the Governor on his return from Frisco. Col. Matt Glaser started a scheme to give him a dinner at ten dollars a plate, and Col. Matt was forced to send for the police to keep union laborers and local Republican politicians in line to get them tickets.

Columbus, O., September 28.—According to a strong supporter of President Willis in his Presidential aspirations, the Governor will formally announce his candidacy and make his appeal to the Republican voters at Denver on October 15. The speech will be repeated at Kansas City on the following evening, and again at Philadelphia later, according to information gleaned here. The Governor, it is believed, will not take part in defending the Sprague Congressional gerrymander from its enemies at the polls on election day.

UNIONS AND WELFARE WORK

There is scarcely a day that passes but we read of some employer in a presumed fullness of heart establishing what he is pleased to term a "welfare department" for his employees in some large industrial institution, the primal thought of which undoubtedly is to make the worker believe he is receiving something for nothing when in reality the opposite is true.

For many years employers of labor have been very active in planning and working out schemes to control the men and women in their employ to the advantage of the firm and deluding the workers by holding out to them promises of reward some time in the dim and distant future which rarely, if ever, materialize.

These agreements usually seemingly provide extensive benefits for the workers in the shape of libraries, playgrounds, bathhouses, sick and death benefits, and that for all of this, the employer, in the fullness of his heart, is going to pay. The truth is, however, that in order to enjoy these supposed benefits the workers are taxed from their weekly wages without any increase thereto, and there is invariably forfeiture of membership, with all that membership costs, in case the employee should sever his connection with the firm.

Welfare work, no matter from what viewpoint, is a cruel joke. It is a continual cost to the workers, and when the wage account is balanced at the end of a five-year period, it is discovered that the workers have paid many times over the cost of the privileges and benefits enjoyed under any welfare scheme.

This is an established truth and will continue to be true of all such schemes until the character of man shall be radically changed by the elimination of all selfish impulses.

However, there is one welfare scheme that is not dependent wholly upon the whim and scheming ability of the employer and to which the workers should give greater attention, if possible, than they are doing at present, and that is the trade union movement.

The benefits secured through collective bargaining by the trade union on the one hand and the employer on the other, gives something tangible and lasting to the workers in the shape of increased wages, shorter workdays, healthful sanitary conditions, protection against the loss of life or limb while engaged in earning a livelihood, opportunities to educate their children and in many other ways to establish the men and women who toil as free, independent citizens.

We urge upon those who have to earn their living by manual labor and who desire improvement in their conditions to shun these so-called welfare movements and join the trade union of their craft, so as to act in concert with their fellows in securing any advantages or improvements in their mode of living which they may desire.—Garment Worker.

WAGE CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL

Washington.—There will be no reduction in the wages of glass bottle blowers this season. A settlement on last year's wages has been reached. The decision was arrived at by representatives of the National Glass Vial and Bottle Manufacturers' Association and representatives of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association of the United States and Canada at its recent conference at Atlantic City after prolonged and tense joint sessions.

The representatives of the glass blowers absolutely refused to consider the proposed wage reduction of 25 per cent which was strongly urged by the manufacturers. The workers also succeeded in winning a favorable decision in the new apprentice question, and as a result of the conference just closed, no new apprentices will be appointed this season. These important agreements apply to both blown and machine departments.

DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY

Those who control the mechanisms by which the labor of others can be converted into profits and wages have for centuries given their attention, and with much success, to the enactment of legislation which would safeguard their property and enable them to so use and apply it as to secure still more. Unfortunately there has not been an equal development of legislative and judicial protection to the workmen's rights as human beings and citizens. That this should be so is not surprising in view of the historical fact that the workmen have not framed the laws which affect them as wage-earners, that they have not had the privilege of placing an accepted interpretation upon such legislation, and furthermore, have never been able to make those judicial decisions which would establish precedents for the guidance of the courts.

While among themselves owners of capital have used every legal device for the accumulation of wealth regardless of what injury their methods might impose upon other owners of wealth, they have presented a practically united front to the great mass without capital who were striving to secure a larger share of the wealth which their labor had produced. It was not until 1824 that the laws making labor organizations illegal conspiracies were repealed in Great Britain. Collective action by workmen is still regarded as an illegal conspiracy, and decisions by American courts have shown a tendency to deny rights to wage earners which are permitted to owners of capital.

If the workers who compose the great mass of our people are to make progress they must work out their salvation largely through their own initiative. They must abandon the individual effort and use their efforts collectively. They must establish democracy in the industries so that government in the shop, like government in the nation, shall be through and by consent of the governed.—JOHN P. FREY.

STATE FEDERATION CONVENTION.

Washington, D. C.—The Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of Labor held a five-day session in this city last week, terminating Friday evening. There were 150 delegates present. The convention was opened by Secretary John B. Colpoys, of the Washington Central Labor Union. After a few remarks he introduced President Gompers, who spoke briefly, as did also Secretary Morrison, Jackson H. Ralston, of counsel for the A. F. of L., and Secretary Spencer, of the Building Trades Department, also addressed the convention.

President John H. Ferguson then assumed the chair and the business of the convention commenced. One of the important resolutions acted on was that giving free text books to the children of the high school of the District, and authorizing a committee to prepare a bill to present to Congress for the purpose of securing the necessary appropriation to make such a law operative. A large number of additional resolutions were acted on favorably.

The delegates were banqueted by the plate printers Wednesday evening, a number of invited guests being present besides the delegates.

The officers chosen were: President, John H. Ferguson; recording secretary, Henry J. Hardy; secretary-treasurer, John A. Banz, and delegate to the A. F. of L., P. J. Ryan.

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